

# **Washington State Auditor's Office**

## **Audit Report**

### **Audit Services**

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Report No. 57957

**CITY OF BUCKLEY**

Pierce County, Washington

January 1, 1994 Through December 31, 1995

Issue Date: January 17, 1997

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**CITY OF BUCKLEY**  
**Pierce County, Washington**  
**January 1, 1994 Through December 31, 1995**

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**Independent Auditor's Report On Compliance With Laws And Regulations  
At The Financial Statement Level (Plus Additional State Compliance  
Requirements Per RCW 43.09.260)**

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Mayor  
City of Buckley  
Buckley, Washington

We have audited the financial statements, as listed in the table of contents, of the City of Buckley, Pierce County, Washington, as of and for the fiscal years ended December 31, 1995 and 1994, and have issued our report thereon dated July 18, 1996.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

Compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grants applicable to the City of Buckley is the responsibility of the city's management. As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of the city's compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants.

We also performed additional tests of compliance with state laws and regulations as required by *Revised Code of Washington* (RCW) 43.09.260. This statute requires the State Auditor to inquire as to whether the city complied with the laws and the *Constitution of the State of Washington*, its own ordinances and orders, and the requirements of the State Auditor's Office. Our responsibility is to examine, on a test basis, evidence about the city's compliance with those requirements and to make a reasonable effort to identify any instances of misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance in office on the part of any public officer or employee and to report any such instance to the management of the city and to the Attorney General. However, the objective of our audit of the financial statements was not to provide an opinion on overall compliance with these provisions. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported herein under *Government Auditing Standards*.

This report is intended for the information of management and the mayor and to meet our statutory reporting obligations. This report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited. It also serves to disseminate information to the public as a reporting tool to help citizens assess government operations.

Brian Sonntag  
State Auditor

July 18, 1996

**CITY OF BUCKLEY**  
**Pierce County, Washington**  
**January 1, 1994 Through December 31, 1995**

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**Independent Auditor's Report On Internal Control Structure**  
**At The Financial Statement Level**

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Mayor  
City of Buckley  
Buckley, Washington

We have audited the financial statements of the City of Buckley, Pierce County, Washington, as of and for the fiscal years ended December 31, 1995 and 1994, and have issued our report thereon dated July 18, 1996.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

The management of the city is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure. In fulfilling this responsibility, estimates and judgments by management are required to assess the expected benefits and related costs of internal control structure policies and procedures. The objectives of an internal control structure are to provide management with reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition, and that transactions are executed in accordance with management's authorization and recorded properly to permit the preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and the prescribed basis of accounting. Because of inherent limitations in any internal control structure, errors or irregularities may nevertheless occur and not be detected. Also, projection of any evaluation of the structure to future periods is subject to the risk that procedures may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the effectiveness of the design and operation of policies and procedures may deteriorate.

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the city, we obtained an understanding of the internal control structure. With respect to the internal control structure, we obtained an understanding of the design of relevant policies and procedures and whether they have been placed in operation, and we assessed control risk in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide an opinion on the internal control structure. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Our consideration of the internal control structure would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control structure that might be reportable conditions and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all reportable conditions that are also considered to be material weaknesses. Reportable conditions involve matters coming to our attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control structure that, in our judgment, could adversely affect the entity's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data consistent with the assertions of

management in the financial statements. A material weakness is a reportable condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the specific internal control structure elements does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that errors or irregularities in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control structure and its operations that we consider to be material weaknesses as defined above.

This report is intended for the information of management and the mayor and to meet our statutory reporting obligations. This report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited. It also serves to disseminate information to the public as a reporting tool to help citizens assess government operations.

Brian Sonntag  
State Auditor

July 18, 1996

**CITY OF BUCKLEY**  
**Pierce County, Washington**  
**January 1, 1994 Through December 31, 1995**

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**Independent Auditor's Report On Financial Statements And Additional  
Information**

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Mayor  
City of Buckley  
Buckley, Washington

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the individual funds of the City of Buckley, Pierce County, Washington, as of and for the fiscal years ended December 31, 1995 and 1994, as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the city's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatements. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1 to the financial statements, the city prepares the financial statements for its proprietary funds on the basis of accounting prescribed by the State Auditor in the *Budgeting, Accounting and Reporting System* (BARS) manual, in the *Uniform System of Accounts for Class A and B Water Utilities*, and the *Uniform System of Accounts Prescribed for Public Utilities and Licensees*. These bases conform to generally accepted accounting principles applicable to proprietary funds of local governments.

As described in Note 1 to the financial statements, the city prepares its financial statements for the remaining funds on the basis of accounting prescribed by Washington State statutes and the *Budgeting, Accounting and Reporting System* (BARS) manual prescribed by the State Auditor. This prescribed basis of accounting is a basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the City of Buckley, at December 31, 1995 and 1994, and the results of operations and cash flows for the Water/Sewer and Natural Gas Funds for the years then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. For the remaining funds, in our opinion, the financial statements present fairly the recognized revenues and expenditures of the funds of the City of Buckley, as of and for the fiscal years ended December 31, 1995 and 1994, on the basis of accounting prescribed by the BARS manual.

Our audit was made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements taken as a whole. The accompanying Schedules of Long-Term Debt and the Schedules of State Financial Assistance are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly presented in all material respects in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued a report dated July 18, 1996, on our consideration of the city's internal control structure and a report dated July 18, 1996, on its compliance with laws and regulations.

Brian Sonntag  
State Auditor

July 18, 1996



**CITY OF BUCKLEY**  
**Pierce County, Washington**  
**January 1, 1994 Through December 31, 1995**

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**Independent Auditor's Report On Supplementary Information**  
**Schedule Of Federal Financial Assistance**

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Mayor  
City of Buckley  
Buckley, Washington

We have audited the financial statements of the City of Buckley, Pierce County, Washington, as of and for the fiscal years ended December 31, 1995 and 1994, and have issued our report thereon dated July 18, 1996. These financial statements are the responsibility of the city's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Our audit was made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements of the City of Buckley taken as a whole. The accompanying Schedules of Federal Financial Assistance are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements. The information in the schedules has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly presented in all material respects in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Brian Sonntag  
State Auditor

July 18, 1996

**CITY OF BUCKLEY**  
**Pierce County, Washington**  
**January 1, 1994 Through December 31, 1995**

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**Independent Auditor's Report On Compliance With The General Requirements  
Applicable To Federal Financial Assistance Programs**

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Mayor  
City of Buckley  
Buckley, Washington

We have audited the financial statements of the City of Buckley, Pierce County, Washington, as of and for the fiscal years ended December 31, 1995 and 1994, and have issued our report thereon dated July 18, 1996.

We have applied procedures to test the city's compliance with the following requirements applicable to its federal financial assistance programs, which are identified in the Schedules of Federal Financial Assistance, for the fiscal years ended December 31, 1995 and 1994:

- Political activity
- Davis-Bacon Act
- Civil rights
- Cash management
- Federal financial reports
- Allowable costs/cost principles
- Administrative requirements, including subrecipient monitoring

The following requirements were determined to be not applicable to its federal financial assistance programs:

- Relocation assistance and real property acquisition
- Drug-Free Workplace Act

Our procedures were limited to the applicable procedures described in the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) *Compliance Supplement for Single Audits of State and Local Governments* or alternative procedures. Our procedures were substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion on the city's compliance with the requirements listed in the preceding paragraph. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

With respect to the items tested, the results of those procedures disclosed no material instances of noncompliance with the requirements listed in the second paragraph of this report. With respect to items not tested, nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that the city had not complied, in all material respects, with those requirements.

This report is intended for the information of management and the mayor and to meet our statutory reporting obligations. This report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited. It also serves to disseminate information to the public as a reporting tool to help citizens assess government operations.

Brian Sonntag  
State Auditor

July 18, 1996

**CITY OF BUCKLEY**  
**Pierce County, Washington**  
**January 1, 1994 Through December 31, 1995**

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**Independent Auditor's Report On Compliance With Specific Requirements  
Applicable To Nonmajor Federal Financial Assistance Program Transactions**

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Mayor  
City of Buckley  
Buckley, Washington

We have audited the financial statements of the City of Buckley, Pierce County, Washington, as of and for the fiscal years ended December 31, 1995 and 1994, and have issued our report thereon dated July 18, 1996.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements of the city and with our consideration of the city's control structure used to administer its federal financial assistance programs, as required by OMB Circular A-128, *Audits of State and Local Governments*, we selected certain transactions applicable to its nonmajor federal financial assistance program for the fiscal years ended December 31, 1995 and 1994. As required by OMB Circular A-128, we have performed auditing procedures to test compliance with the requirements governing allowability of the program expenditures and reporting that are applicable to those transactions. Our procedures were substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion on the city's compliance with these requirements. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

With respect to the items tested, the results of those procedures disclosed no material instances of noncompliance with the requirements listed in the preceding paragraph. With respect to the items not tested, nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that the City of Buckley had not complied, in all material respects, with those requirements.

This report is intended for the information of management and the mayor and to meet our statutory reporting obligations. This report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited. It also serves to disseminate information to the public as a reporting tool to help citizens assess government operations.

Brian Sonntag  
State Auditor

July 18, 1996

**CITY OF BUCKLEY**  
**Pierce County, Washington**  
**January 1, 1994 Through December 31, 1995**

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**Independent Auditor's Report On Internal Control Structure Used In  
Administering Federal Financial Assistance Programs**

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Mayor  
City of Buckley  
Buckley, Washington

We have audited the financial statements of the City of Buckley, Pierce County, Washington, as of and for the fiscal years ended December 31, 1995 and 1994, and have issued our report thereon dated July 18, 1996.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the provisions of OMB Circular A-128, *Audits of State and Local Governments*. Those standards and OMB Circular A-128 require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the city's internal control structure in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements and to report on the internal control structure in accordance with OMB Circular A-128. This report addresses our consideration of internal control structure policies and procedures relevant to compliance with requirements applicable to federal financial assistance programs. We have addressed internal control structure policies and procedures relevant to our audit of the financial statements in a separate report dated July 18, 1996.

The management of the city is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure. In fulfilling this responsibility, estimates and judgments by management are required to assess the expected benefits and related costs of internal control structure policies and procedures. The objectives of an internal control structure are to provide management with reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that:

- Assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition.
- Transactions are executed in accordance with management's authorization and recorded properly to permit the preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and the prescribed basis of accounting.
- Federal financial assistance programs are managed in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Because of inherent limitations in any internal control structure, errors, irregularities, or instances of noncompliance may nevertheless occur and not be detected. Also, projection of any evaluation

of the structure to future periods is subject to the risk that procedures may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the effectiveness of the design and operation of policies and procedures may deteriorate.

For the purpose of this report, we have classified the significant internal control structure policies and procedures used in administering federal financial assistance programs in the following categories:

- **Accounting Controls**
  - Cash disbursements
  - Accounts payable
- **General Requirements**
  - Political activity
  - Davis-Bacon Act
  - Civil rights
  - Cash management
  - Federal financial reports
  - Allowable costs/cost principles
  - Administrative requirements, including subrecipient monitoring
- **Specific Requirements**
  - Types of services
  - Reporting
- **Claims For Advances And Reimbursements**

For all of the applicable internal control structure categories listed above, we obtained an understanding of the design of relevant policies and procedures and determined whether they have been placed in operation, and we assessed control risk.

The following internal control structure categories were determined to be insignificant to federal financial assistance programs:

- **Accounting Controls**
  - Cash receipts
  - Receivables
  - Purchasing and receiving
  - Payroll
  - Inventory control
  - Property, plant, and equipment
  - General ledger
- **General Requirements**
  - Relocation assistance and real property acquisition
  - Drug-Free Workplace Act
- **Specific Requirements**
  - Eligibility
  - Matching, level of effort, earmarking
  - Special requirements
- **Amounts Claimed Or Used For Matching**

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 1995, the city had no major federal financial assistance programs and expended 99 percent of its total federal financial assistance under the following nonmajor federal financial assistance program: Foothills Trail (CFDA 20.205)

We performed tests of controls, as required by OMB Circular A-128, to evaluate the effectiveness of the design and operation of internal control structure policies and procedures that we considered relevant to preventing or detecting material noncompliance with specific requirements, general requirements, and requirements governing claims for advances and reimbursements that are applicable to the aforementioned nonmajor program. Our procedures were less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on these internal control structures policies and procedures. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Our consideration of the internal control structure policies and procedures used in administering federal financial assistance would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control structure that might be material weaknesses under standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. A material weakness is a reportable condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control structure elements does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that noncompliance with laws and regulations that would be material to a federal financial assistance program may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control structure and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above.

This report is intended for the information of management and the mayor and to meet our statutory reporting obligations. This report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited. It also serves to disseminate information to the public as a reporting tool to help citizens assess government operations.

Brian Sonntag  
State Auditor

July 18, 1996

CITY OF BUCKLEY  
Pierce County, Washington  
January 1, 1994 Through December 31, 1995

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Status Of Prior Findings

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The findings contained in the prior audit report were resolved as follows:

1. City Officials Should Limit Expenditures To Budget Appropriations

*Resolution: The city has improved its budgetary controls.*

2. The City Should Comply With Bid Law Requirements

*Resolution: The city is complying with bid law requirements.*

3. Court Disposition Of Infractions Should Be Made Pursuant To Applicable Laws

*Resolution: The city is sending the correct share of court receipts to the state.*

4. The City Should Limit Fund Expenditures To Those Authorized By Ordinance

*Resolution: The city is properly handling transfers between funds and, therefore, is not affecting appropriations.*